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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 USIA-15 /045 R

DRAFTED BY CU/WE:RSTRAUS:KM

APPROVED BY CU/WE:RSTRAUS

CU - MR. RICHARDSON (DRAFT)

CU - MR. FOX (DRAFT)

CU/OPP - MR. ROTH (DRAFT)

EUR/RPE - MISS PHILLIPS (DRAFT)

EUR/CE - MR. LEDSKY (DRAFT)

EUR - MR. SPRINGSTEEN

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P R 182225Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: US-EC CULTURAL INITIATIVE

1. NUMEROUS THOUGHTFUL ANALYSTS OF CURRENT EUROPEAN SCENE

HAVE REPORTED THAT NEW GENERATION OF EUROPEAN LEADERS IN

VARIOUS FIELDS OF SOCIAL STRUCTURE NO LONGER HAVE FEELING

OF MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS WITH US THAT WAS COMMON IN 50'S

AND 60'S. WE RECOGNIZE THAT VARIOUS FACTORS HAVE CONTRI-

BUTED TO THIS CHANGE INCLUDING US INVOLVEMENT IN SE ASIA,

DOMESTIC UPHEAVALS IN US DURING 60'S AND FREQUENT DIS-

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AGREEMENT WITH SPECIFIC US POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES. WE

BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ATTITUDE, WHATEVER ITS CAUSES, IS TOO SERIOUS TO BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE WITHOUT SOME SPECIAL EFFORT ON PART OF US TO REESTABLISH MUTUALITY OF TRUST BASED ON HABITS OF COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION AMONG KEY LEADERSHIP GROUPS. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS NOT MEANT TO BE EFFORT TO "SELL" US OR ITS POLICIES (THERE ARE BE OTHER CHANNELS FOR THIS EFFORT) BUT DEVELOP NEW MEANS OF FACILITATING BETTER UNDERSTANDING.

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2. DEPT HAS THEREFORE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBILITY PROPOSING TO EC COMMISSION THE CONVENING, FOLLOWING ADEQUATE PREPARATION, OF A CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EC *N EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE. A SIMILAR CONFERENCE CURRENTLY EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN (CULCON) AND HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN

DEVELOPING A BROAD RANGE OF INTER-CULTURAL CONTACTS HERETOFORE LACKING. IN THE JAPANESE CASE, CONFERENCE ITSELF MEETS BI-ANNUALLY AT PLENARY LEVEL WITH REPRESENTATION DRAWN NOT ONLY FROM GOVERNMENTS BUT ALSO FROM FOUNDATIONS, MEDIA, ETC. AS OFFSHOOT, NUMEROUS COMMITTEES COVERING FUNCTIONAL AREAS MEET DURING PERIOD BETWEEN PLENARY SESSIONS TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC EXCHANGES AND OTHER INTER-CULTURAL INTERACTIONS. PROGRAM HAS LEAD TO SUCH ACTIVITIES AS EXCHANGES OF MEDIA SPECIALISTS, STRENGTHENING OF AMERICAN AND JAPANESE STUDIES PROGRAMS, MUSEUM INTERCHANGES, MORE EFFECTIVE STUDENT COUNSELLING AND OTHERS.

3. SUBJECT BECAME TIMELY WHEN GERMAN FONOFF, AFTER SOME DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON IN WHICH THESE IDEAS WERE AIRED, PLACED SUBJECT ON AGENDA OF US-GERMAN CULTURAL TALKS SCHEDULED FOR BONN JANUARY 10-11. GERMANS ARE AWARE OF CULCON AND FEEL THAT SIMILAR US-GERMAN CONFERENCE MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN OVERCOMING COMMUNICATIONS GAP BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES. GERMANS SHARE OUR ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION AND STATED THIS QUITE FORCEFULLY IN CHANCELLOR BRANDT'S SPEECH AT ASPEN, SEPTEMBER 28.

4. OBVIOUSLY, ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT ALONG THESE LINES MADE WITH ONE EUROPEAN COUNTRY (GERMANY) IS LIKELY TO RAISE QUESTIONS BY OTHERS AS TO REASON SUCH ARRANGEMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT MADE WITH THEM. WE BELIEVE FRANCE ALREADY SENSITIVE ON THIS ISSUE AND SMALLER EC MEMBER COUNTRIES MIGHT REACT SIMILARLY. EQUALLY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE TO DUPLICATE CULCON AD INFINITUM. WE THEREFORE PREFER US-EC ARRANGEMENT, IF FEASIBLE. IN OUR PROPOSAL FOR EC PARTICIPATION WE HAVE IN MIND NOT ONLY COMMISSION OFFICIALS BUT REPRESENTATION FROM MEMBER STATES OF EC NINE WHO WOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE IN SELECTION SUBJECTS TO BE

COVERED AND CANDIDATES FOR PARTICIPATION. THIS PROPOSAL IN NO WAY INTENDED TO SUPPLANT ONGOING US-EC EXCHANGE PROGRAM BUT TO SUPPLEMENT IT WITH BROADER RANGE EFFORT.

5. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS ON ABOVE FROM BOTH USEC AND EMBASSY BONN, WITHOUT, HOWEVER DISCUSSIONS OUTSIDE EMBASSY ITSELF AT THIS STAGE OF CONSIDERATION. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD WISH TO HAVE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF:

(A) REACTION SUCH A PROPOSAL BY US WOULD LIKELY ENGENDER FROM EC COMMISSION AND OTHER APPROPRIATE EC INSTITUTIONS.

(B) IF REACTION GENERALLY FAVORABLE, HOW LONG A LEAD TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE A FIRST CONFERENCE COULD BE HELD?

(C) LIKELY SUPPORT OF SUCH APPROACH BY THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.

(D) FOR BONN: WOULD GERMAN DELEGATION BE LIKELY TO SUPPORT EC APPROACH OR WOULD IT FEEL THAT ITS OWN (EXPECTED) ENDORSEMENT OF CULCON IDEA WAS REJECTED BY US IF WE FAVORED EC APPROACH?

(E) ANY OTHER PROBLEMS YOU FORESEE OR IDEAS YOU WISH TO ADD?

6. WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE SPRINGING NEW IDEA ON YOU AT SHORT NOTICE BUT IN VIEW OF NEED TO PREPARE US POSITION THIS SUBJECT FOR GERMAN TALKS WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS SOONEST AND IN ANY CASE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 3. RUSH
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE246586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSTRAUS:KM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731218/aaaaamss.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <26-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-EC CULTURAL INITIATIVE
TAGS: SCUL, US, JA, EC
To: BONN EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005